MARVEL
#5 IN A NINE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES
SECRET WARS II
GUEST-STARRING THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND THE AVENGERS! PLUS THE X-MEN AND THE NEW MUTANTS!
AND DOCTOR STRANGE TOO!
75¢
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02831
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
AL + STEVE
THE BEYONDER BITES THE DUST!

Beyond time, space, and the myriad dimensions lies another universe to which our own is as a droplet of water to the ocean. The One Who Is All in that other universe has learned of our universe and has come here to walk among us, that he might come to understand the essence of humanity.

The fragile Earth trembles beneath his feet, dreading his godlike omnipotence.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: SECRET WARS™ II

NEAR WASHINGTON, D.C., A SOLITARY FIGURE WALKS NORTH...
AIN'T NO SUNSHINE WHEN SHE'S GONE
THE FRANTIC SHRIEK OF AN AIR-HORN INTERRUPTS HIS REVERIE...
HM? OH...
CLICK!
BANG!
SUDDENLY THE TRAIN COMES APART-- EVERY PIECE SEPARATES FROM EVERY OTHER PIECE, HURTLING ALONG NONETHELESS, ITS MOMENTUM UNDIMINISHED...
THE ONE WHO CAUSED IT STANDS UNTOUCHED, THE BARRAGE OF STUFF PASSING HARMLESSLY AROUND HIM.
DESPAIR!

JIM SHOOTER SCRIPTER | AL MILGROM PENCILER | LEIALOHA & RUBINSTEIN INKERS | ROSEN & PARKER LETTERS | M. HANDS COLORIST | BOB BUDIANSKY EDITOR

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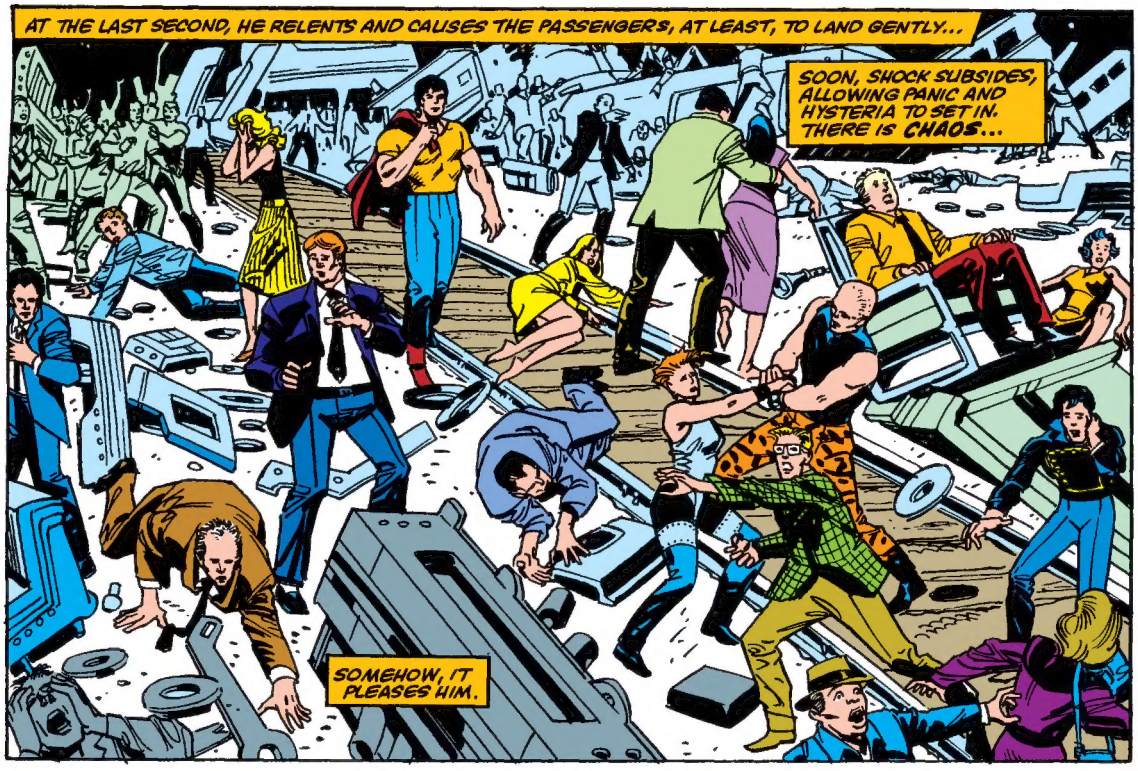
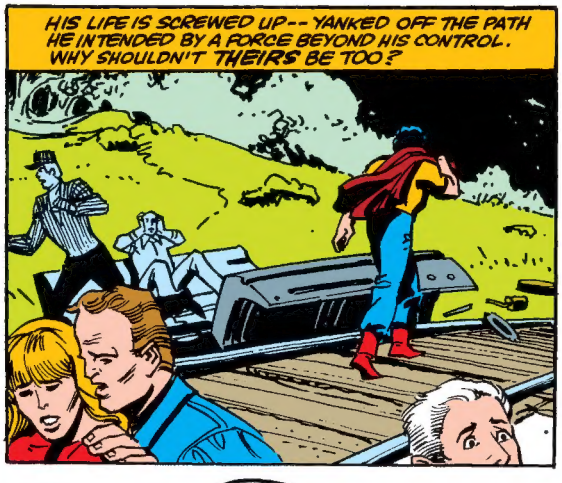
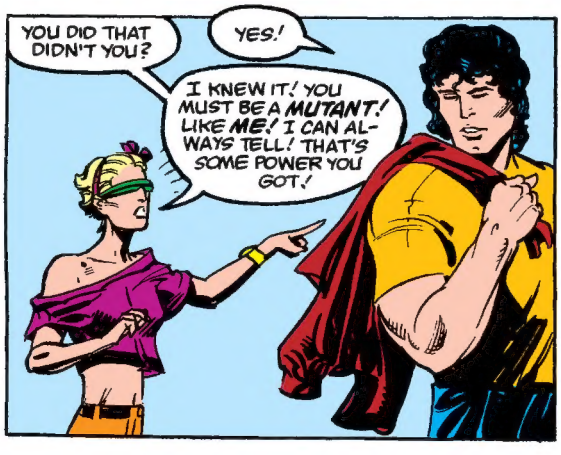
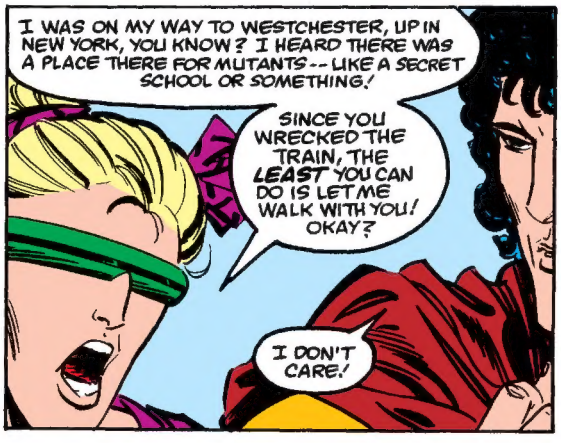
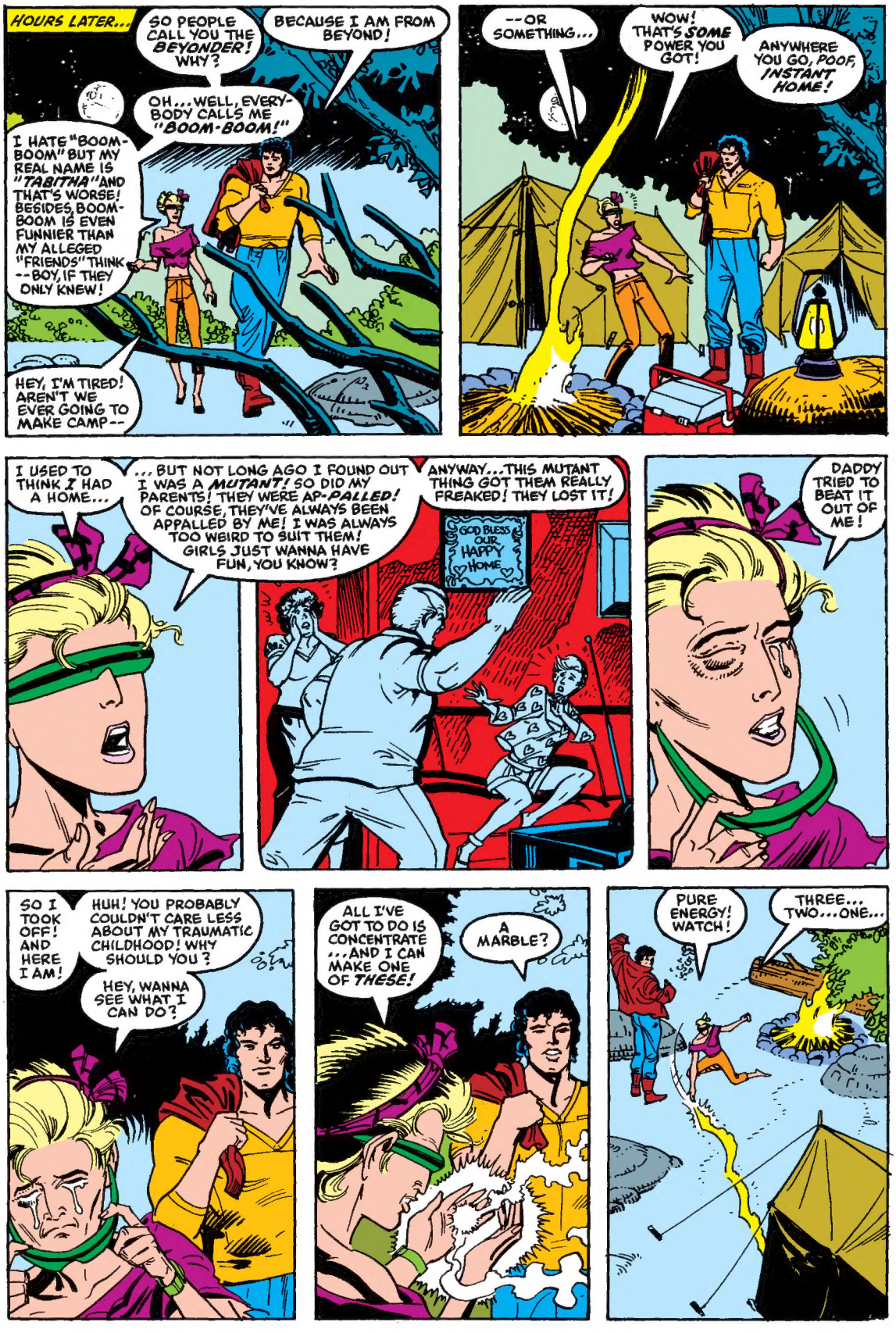

AT THE LAST SECOND, HE RELENTS AND CAUSES THE PASSENGERS, AT LEAST, TO LAND GENTLY...
SOON, SHOCK SUBSIDES, ALLOWING PANIC AND HYSTERIA TO SET IN. THERE IS CHAOS...
SOMEHOW, IT PLEASES HIM.

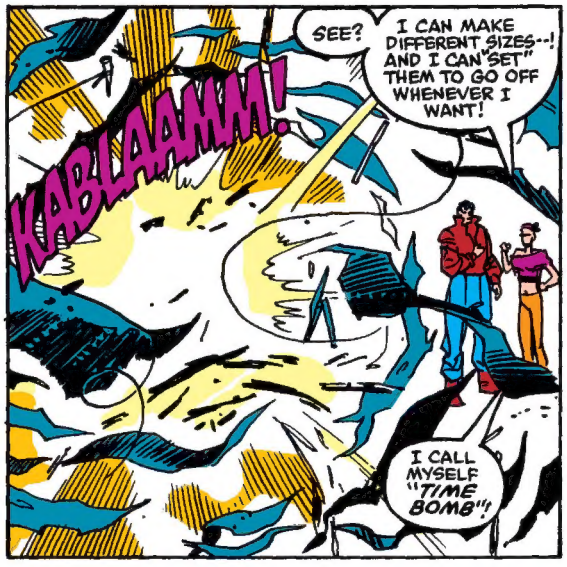

HIS LIFE IS SCREWED UP-- YANKED OFF THE PATH HE INTENDED BY A FORCE BEYOND HIS CONTROL. WHY SHOULDN'T THEIRS BE TOO?

LIVES HERE IN THIS UNIVERSE ARE SO EASILY BROKEN, IT SEEMS. EVEN HIS.
HEY, MISTER! WAIT UP!

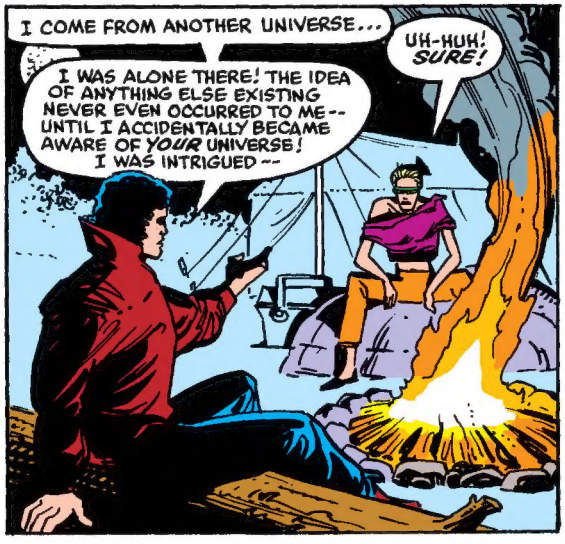

YOU DID THAT DIDN'T YOU?
YES!
I KNEW IT! YOU MUST BE A MUTANT! LIKE ME! I CAN ALWAYS TELL! THAT'S SOME POWER YOU GOT!


I WAS ON MY WAY TO WESTCHESTER, UP IN NEW YORK, YOU KNOW? I HEARD THERE WAS A PLACE THERE FOR MUTANTS-- LIKE A SECRET SCHOOL OR SOMETHING!
SINCE YOU WRECKED THE TRAIN, THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS LET ME WALK WITH YOU! OKAY?
I DON'T CARE!


HOURS LATER...
SO PEOPLE CALL YOU THE BEYONDER! WHY?
BECAUSE I AM FROM BEYOND!
OH...WELL, EVERYBODY CALLS ME "BOOM-BOOM!"
I HATE "BOOM-BOOM" BUT MY REAL NAME IS "TABITHA" AND THAT'S WORSE! BESIDES, BOOM-BOOM IS EVEN FUNNIER THAN MY ALLEGED "FRIENDS" THINK --BOY, IF THEY ONLY KNEW!
HEY, I'M TIRED! AREN'T WE EVER GOING TO MAKE CAMP--
--OR SOMETHING...
WOW! THAT'S SOME POWER YOU GOT!
ANYWHERE YOU GO, POOF, INSTANT HOME!
I USED TO THINK I HAD A HOME...
...BUT NOT LONG AGO I FOUND OUT I WAS A MUTANT! SO DID MY PARENTS! THEY WERE AP-PALLED! OF COURSE, THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN APPALLED BY ME! I WAS ALWAYS TOO WEIRD TO SUIT THEM! GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN, YOU KNOW?
ANYWAY...THIS MUTANT THING GOT THEM REALLY FREAKED! THEY LOST IT!
GOD BLESS OUR HAPPY HOME
DADDY TRIED TO BEAT IT OUT OF ME!
SO I TOOK OFF! AND HERE I AM!
HUH! YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT MY TRAUMATIC CHILDHOOD! WHY SHOULD YOU?
HEY, WANNA SEE WHAT I CAN DO?
ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS CONCENTRATE ...AND I CAN MAKE ONE OF THESE!
A MARBLE?
PURE ENERGY! WATCH!
THREE... TWO... ONE...


KABLAAMM!
SEE?
I CAN MAKE DIFFERENT SIZES--! AND I CAN "SET" THEM TO GO OFF WHENEVER I WANT!
I CALL MYSELF "TIME BOMB"!

WHY DID YOU BLOW UP THE TENT?
YOU CAN FIX IT! WHY DID YOU BLOW UP THE TRAIN?
IT'S A LONG STORY...
I'VE GOT TIME!
ALL RIGHT!

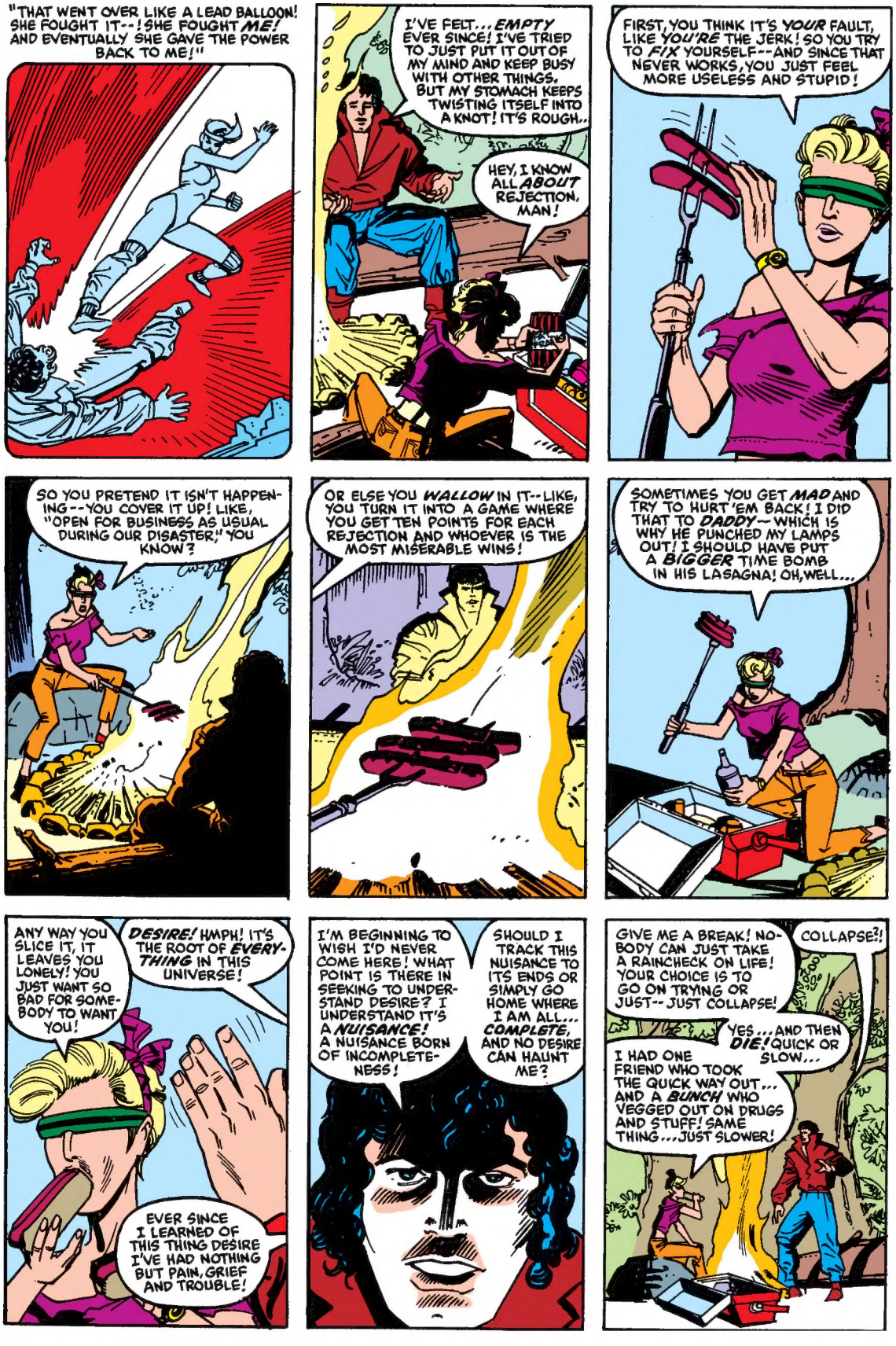

I COME FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE...
UH-HUH! SURE!
I WAS ALONE THERE! THE IDEA OF ANYTHING ELSE EXISTING NEVER EVEN OCCURRED TO ME-- UNTIL I ACCIDENTALLY BECAME AWARE OF YOUR UNIVERSE! I WAS INTRIGUED--

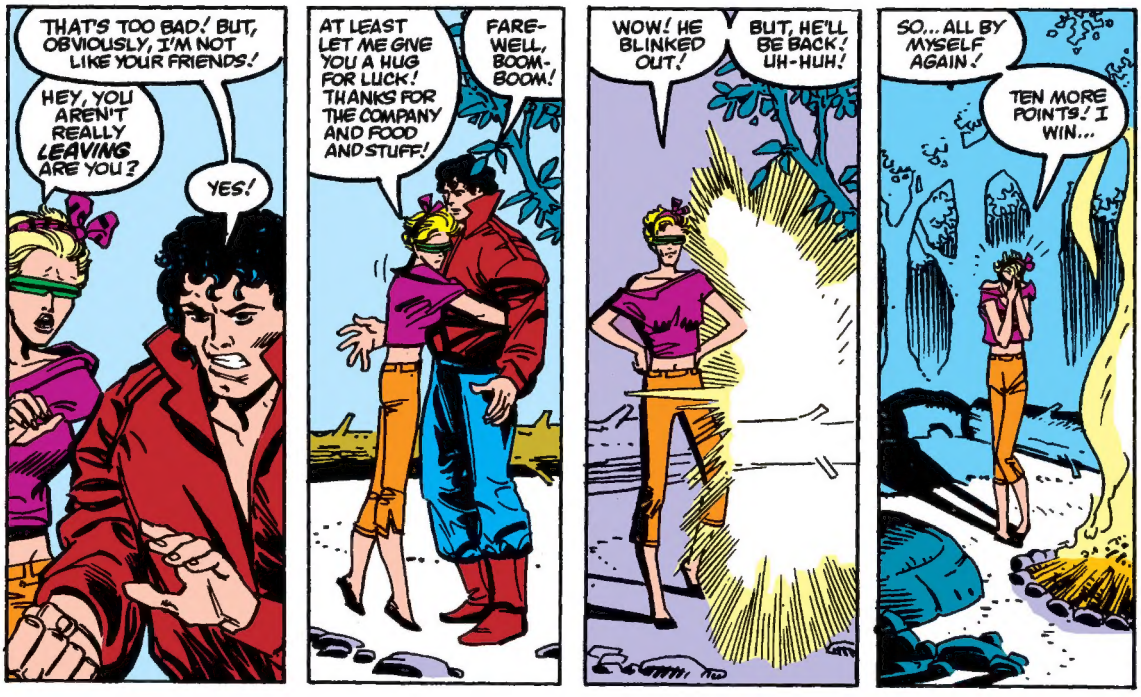
--SO I ASSUMED HUMAN FORM AND CAME HERE! I WAS DOING OKAY UNTIL I FOUND THIS WOMAN*...
*ALISON BLAIRE, A.K.A. THE DAZZLER, TO BE PRECISE. SEE LAST ISSUE-- BOB.

"I WANTED HER TO LOVE ME!
"I TOOK HER TO ROMANTIC, SECLUDED SPOTS, SO WE COULD GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!
"THE CLOSER WE GOT, THE MORE TERRIFIC I THOUGHT SHE WAS! I FELL MORE AND MORE IN LOVE WITH HER!

"I WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING FOR HER! I TRIED TO HELP HER WITH HER CAREER-- SHE WANTS TO BE A SINGER, YOU SEE-- BUT MY HELPING JUST UPSET HER!

"FINALLY, I GAVE HER THE ULTIMATE GIFT-- PART OF MYSELF, PART OF MY OWN VAST COSMIC POWER! I MADE HER A GODDESS!

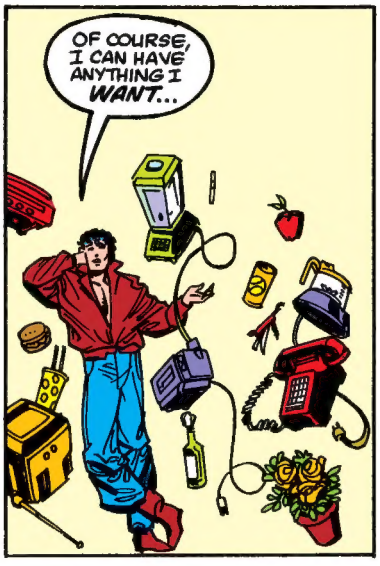

"THAT WENT OVER LIKE A LEAD BALLOON! SHE FOUGHT IT--! SHE FOUGHT ME! AND EVENTUALLY SHE GAVE THE POWER BACK TO ME!"
I'VE FELT... EMPTY EVER SINCE! I'VE TRIED TO JUST PUT IT OUT OF MY MIND AND KEEP BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS. BUT MY STOMACH KEEPS TWISTING ITSELF INTO A KNOT! IT'S ROUGH..
HEY, I KNOW ALL ABOUT REJECTION, MAN!
FIRST, YOU THINK IT'S YOUR FAULT, LIKE YOU'RE THE JERK! SO YOU TRY TO FIX YOURSELF--AND SINCE THAT NEVER WORKS, YOU JUST FEEL MORE USELESS AND STUPID!
SO YOU PRETEND IT ISN'T HAPPENING--YOU COVER IT UP! LIKE, "OPEN FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL DURING OUR DISASTER," YOU KNOW?
OR ELSE YOU WALLOW IN IT--LIKE, YOU TURN IT INTO A GAME WHERE YOU GET TEN POINTS FOR EACH REJECTION AND WHOEVER IS THE MOST MISERABLE WINS!
SOMETIMES YOU GET MAD AND TRY TO HURT 'EM BACK! I DID THAT TO DADDY--WHICH IS WHY HE PUNCHED MY LAMPS OUT! I SHOULD HAVE PUT A BIGGER TIME BOMB IN HIS LASAGNA! OH, WELL...
ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT, IT LEAVES YOU LONELY! YOU JUST WANT SO BAD FOR SOMEBODY TO WANT YOU!
DESIRE! HMPH! IT'S THE ROOT OF EVERYTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE!
EVER SINCE I LEARNED OF THIS THING DESIRE I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT PAIN, GRIEF AND TROUBLE!
I'M BEGINNING TO WISH I'D NEVER COME HERE! WHAT POINT IS THERE IN SEEKING TO UNDERSTAND DESIRE? I UNDERSTAND IT'S A NUISANCE! A NUISANCE BORN OF INCOMPLETENESS!
SHOULD I TRACK THIS NUISANCE TO ITS ENDS OR SIMPLY GO HOME WHERE I AM ALL... COMPLETE, AND NO DESIRE CAN HAUNT ME?
GIVE ME A BREAK! NOBODY CAN JUST TAKE A RAINCHECK ON LIFE! YOUR CHOICE IS TO GO ON TRYING OR JUST--JUST COLLAPSE!
COLLAPSE?!
YES... AND THEN DIE! QUICK OR SLOW...
I HAD ONE FRIEND WHO TOOK THE QUICK WAY OUT... AND A BUNCH WHO VEGGED OUT ON DRUGS AND STUFF! SAME THING... JUST SLOWER!

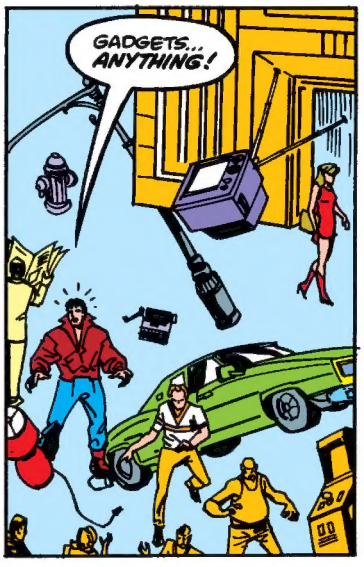

THAT'S TOO BAD! BUT, OBVIOUSLY, I'M NOT LIKE YOUR FRIENDS!
HEY, YOU AREN'T REALLY LEAVING ARE YOU?
YES!
AT LEAST LET ME GIVE YOU A HUG FOR LUCK! THANKS FOR THE COMPANY AND FOOD AND STUFF!
FARE-WELL, BOOM-BOOM!
WOW! HE BLINKED OUT!
BUT, HE'LL BE BACK! UH-HUH!
SO... ALL BY MYSELF AGAIN!
TEN MORE POINTS! I WIN...

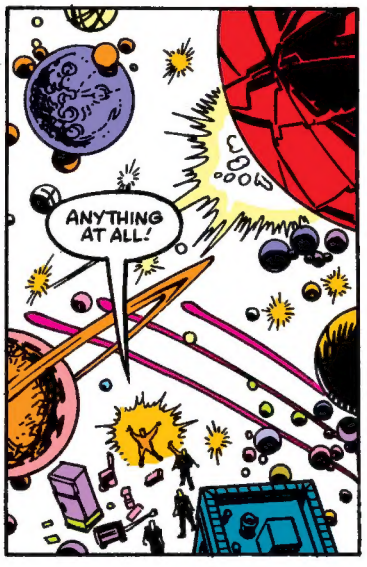
MEANWHILE, IN A UNIVERSE BEYOND TIME, SPACE, AND ALL DIMENSIONS KNOWN TO ANY IN OUR UNIVERSE...
HOME!
WITHOUT ME, THIS PLACE IS NOTHING!
HMP! WITHOUT ME, IT'S NOT EVEN REALLY A PLACE!
I GUESS I'LL JUST... DISINCORPORATE-- EXPAND TO FILL, OR ACTUALLY, TO BECOME THE OL' BEYOND-REALM AGAIN...

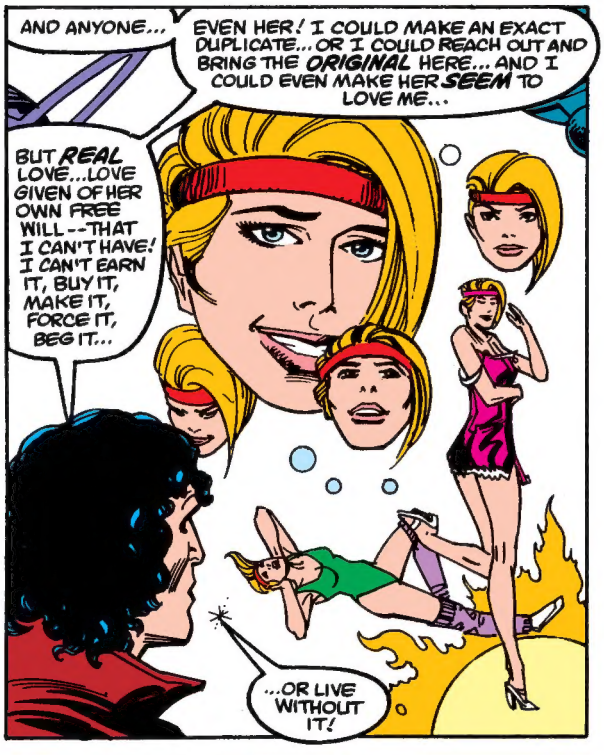
...IN A MINUTE!

I CAN'T HELP THINKING... I--I ALMOST WISH I'D BROUGHT A FEW THINGS WITH ME!


OF COURSE, I CAN HAVE ANYTHING I WANT...


GADGETS... ANYTHING!

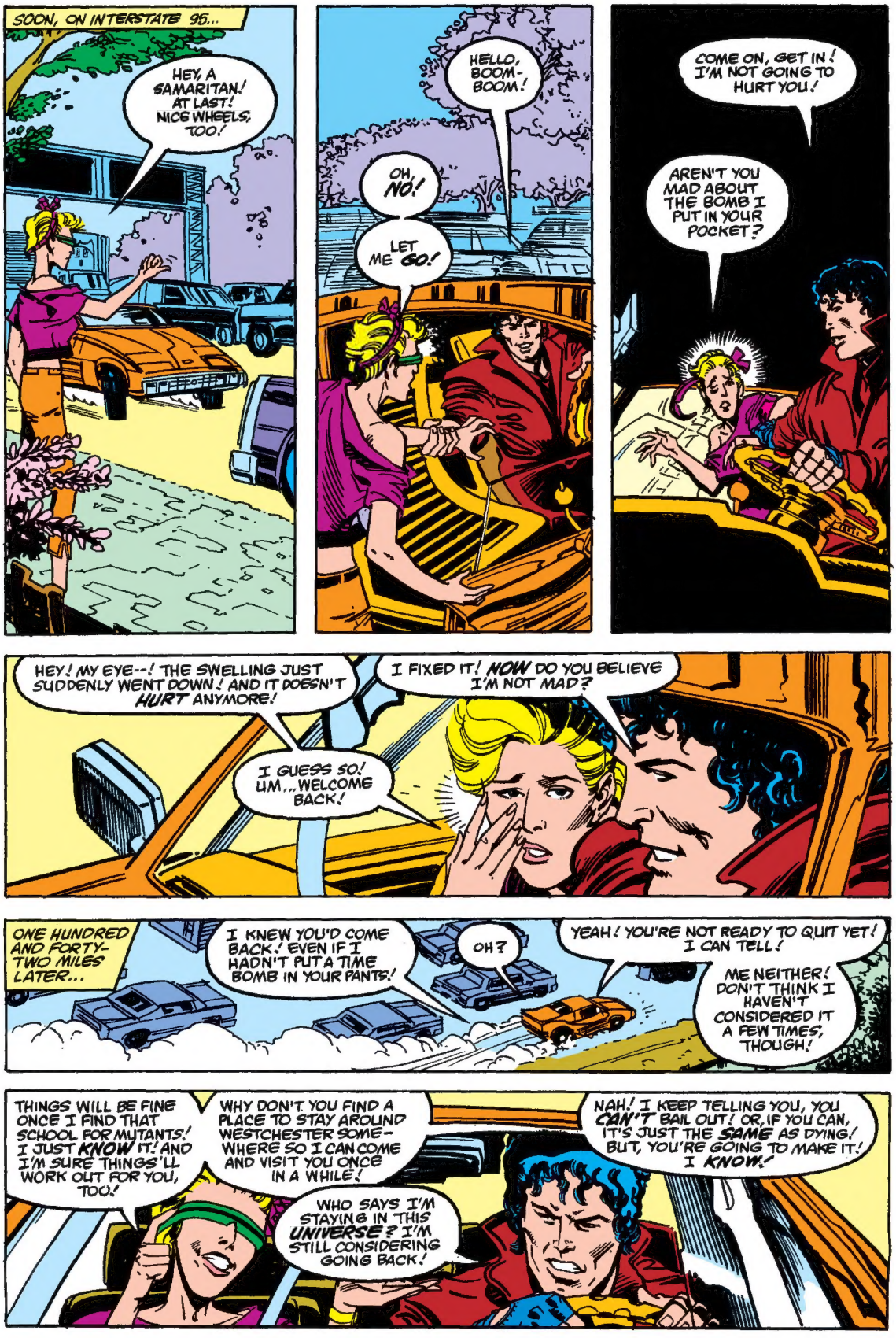

ANYTHING AT ALL!

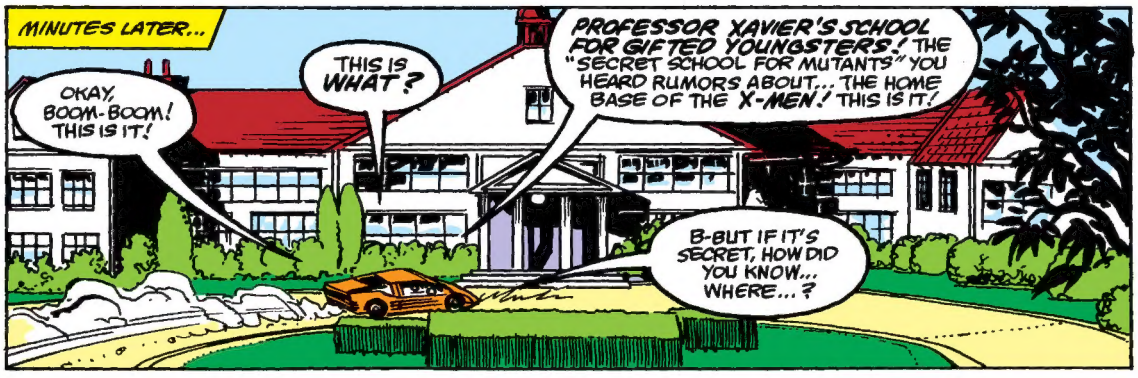

AND ANYONE...
EVEN HER! I COULD MAKE AN EXACT DUPLICATE... OR I COULD REACH OUT AND BRING THE ORIGINAL HERE... AND I COULD EVEN MAKE HER SEEM TO LOVE ME...
BUT REAL LOVE...LOVE GIVEN OF HER OWN FREE WILL--THAT I CAN'T HAVE! I CAN'T EARN IT, BUY IT, MAKE IT, FORCE IT, BEG IT...
...OR LIVE WITHOUT IT!

NO!
WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT? WHY AM I TALKING?!
I CAME HERE TO BE WHAT I WAS! I WANT TO FORGET THAT OTHER UNIVERSE--

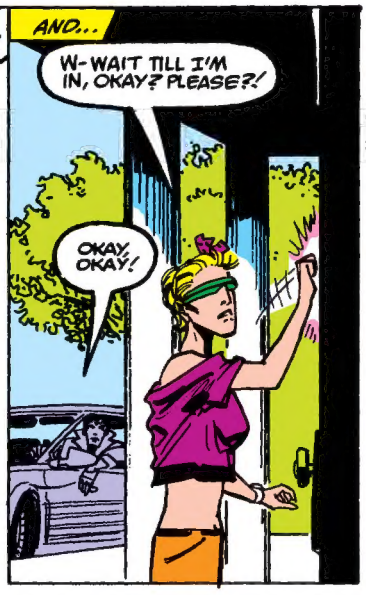
-- AND EVERYONE IN IT!
YOWWW!
BOOOM!

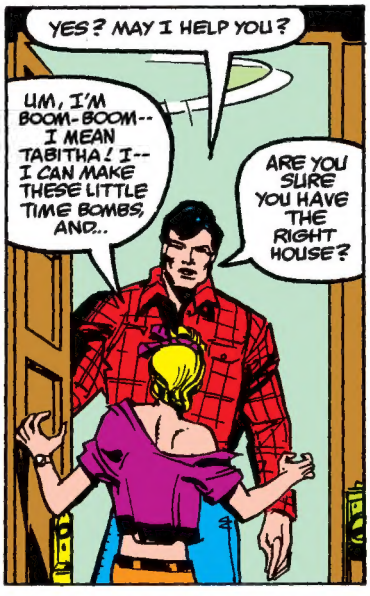
WHY, THAT SNEAKY LITTLE TWERP--!

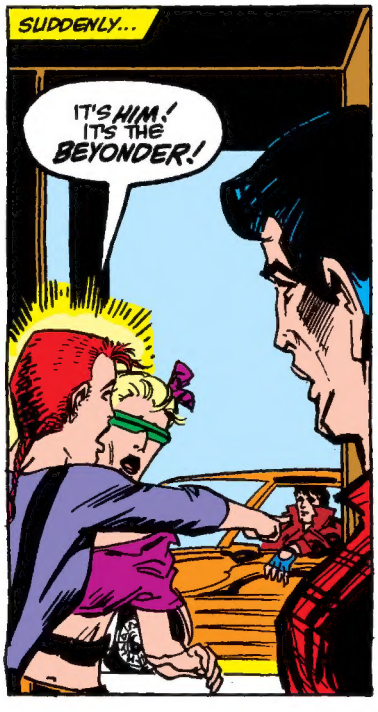

SOON, ON INTERSTATE 95...
HEY, A SAMARITAN! AT LAST! NICE WHEELS, TOO!
HELLO, BOOM-BOOM!
OH, NO!
LET ME GO!
COME ON, GET IN! I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU!
AREN'T YOU MAD ABOUT THE BOMB I PUT IN YOUR POCKET?
HEY! MY EYE--! THE SWELLING JUST SUDDENLY WENT DOWN! AND IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE!
I FIXED IT! NOW DO YOU BELIEVE I'M NOT MAD?
I GUESS SO! UM...WELCOME BACK!
ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-TWO MILES LATER...
I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK! EVEN IF I HADN'T PUT A TIME BOMB IN YOUR PANTS!
OH?
YEAH! YOU'RE NOT READY TO QUIT YET! I CAN TELL!
ME NEITHER! DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T CONSIDERED IT A FEW TIMES, THOUGH!
THINGS WILL BE FINE ONCE I FIND THAT SCHOOL FOR MUTANTS! I JUST KNOW IT! AND I'M SURE THINGS'LL WORK OUT FOR YOU, TOO!
WHY DON'T YOU FIND A PLACE TO STAY AROUND WESTCHESTER SOMEWHERE SO I CAN COME AND VISIT YOU ONCE IN A WHILE!
WHO SAYS I'M STAYING IN THIS UNIVERSE? I'M STILL CONSIDERING GOING BACK!
NAH! I KEEP TELLING YOU, YOU CAN'T BAIL OUT! OR, IF YOU CAN, IT'S JUST THE SAME AS DYING! BUT, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT! I KNOW!


MINUTES LATER...
OKAY, BOOM-BOOM! THIS IS IT!
THIS IS WHAT?
PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS! THE "SECRET SCHOOL FOR MUTANTS" YOU HEARD RUMORS ABOUT... THE HOME BASE OF THE X-MEN! THIS IS IT!
B-BUT IF IT'S SECRET, HOW DID YOU KNOW... WHERE...?

I KNOW WHATEVER I WANT TO KNOW! THERE AREN'T ANY SECRETS FROM ME! NOW, SCOOT!
BUT HOW CAN I GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU IF I WANT? I MEAN...
JUST YELL! I'LL PROBABLY HEAR YOU-- IF I'M IN THIS UNIVERSE! I'M OMNISCIENT, USUALLY...

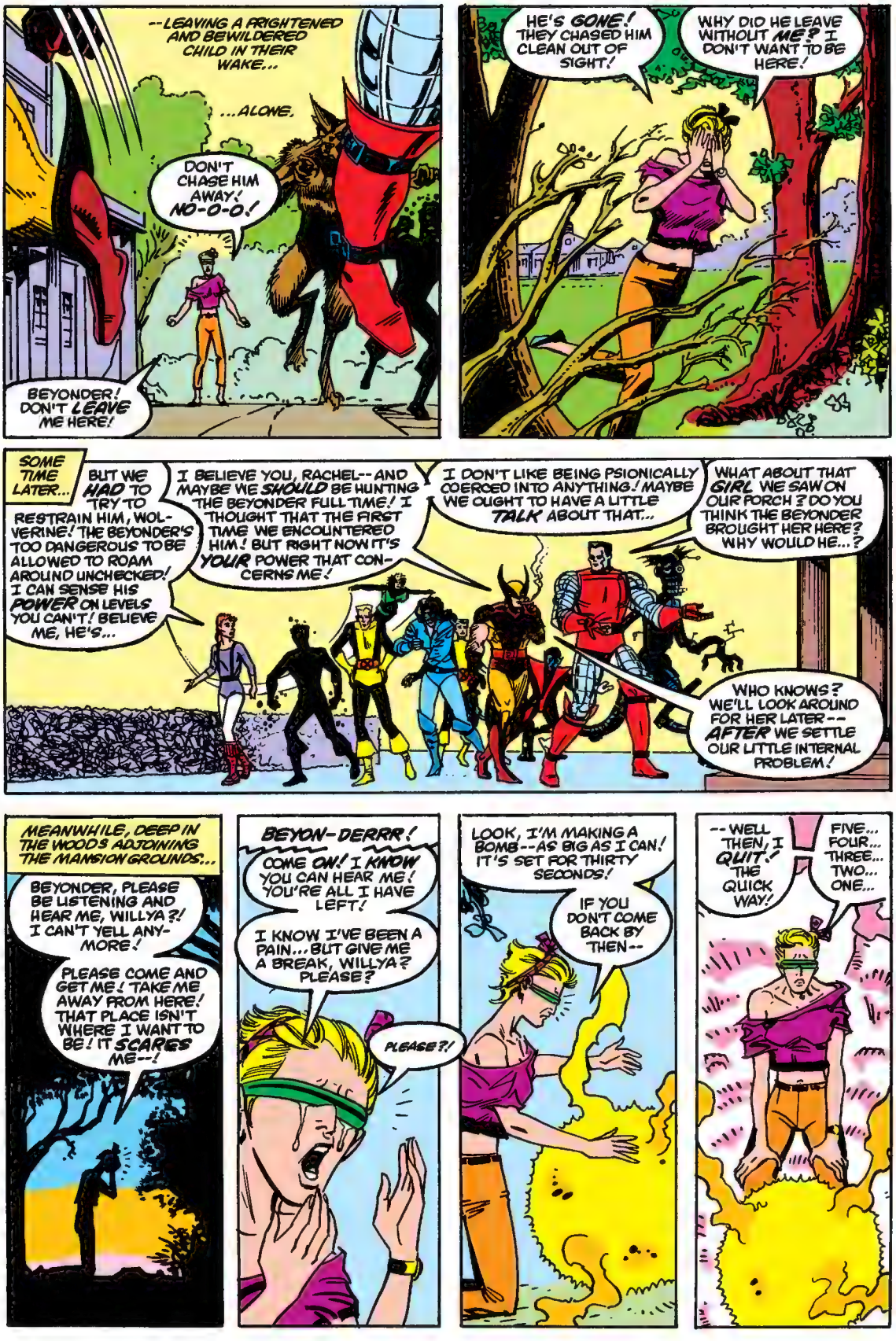

AND...
W-WAIT TILL I'M IN, OKAY? PLEASE?!
OKAY, OKAY!


YES? MAY I HELP YOU?
UM, I'M BOOM-BOOM-- I MEAN TABITHA! I-- I CAN MAKE THESE LITTLE TIME BOMBS, AND..
ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT HOUSE?

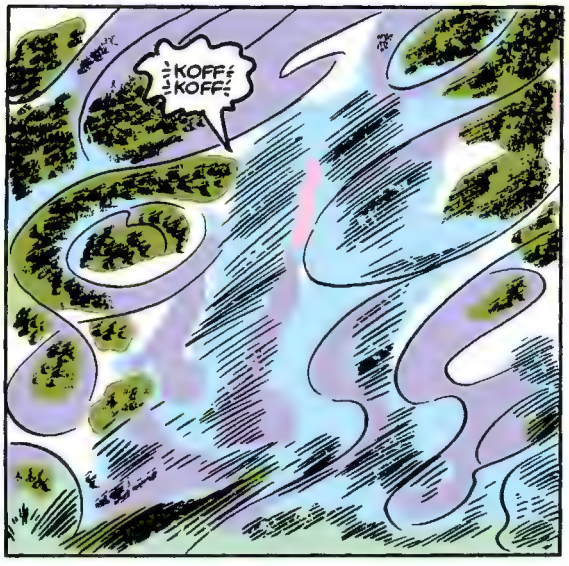

SUDDENLY...
IT'S HIM! IT'S THE BEYONDER!

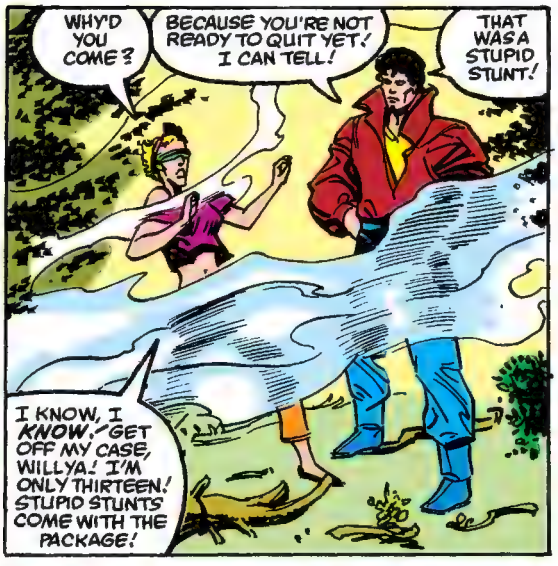
HURRY!
LET'S GO X-MEN!
BAMF!

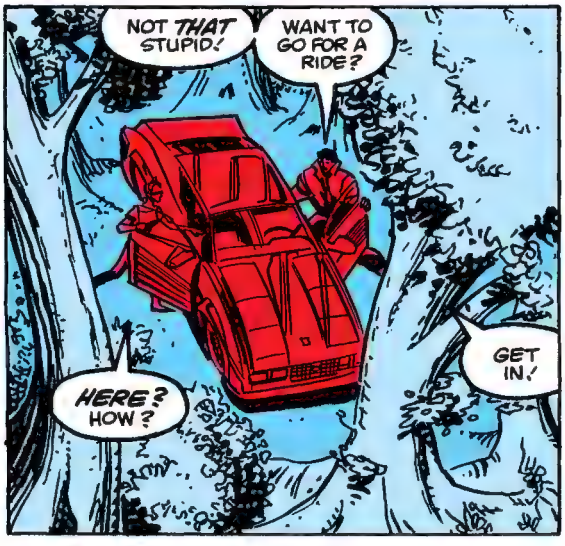
DON'T MOVE, MISTER! WE'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED!
PULL HIM OUT OF THE CAR SO WE CAN...
HEY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH HIM? WHY DID WE ATTACK, ANYWAY?
BECAUSE RACHEL SAID TO!
I REALLY DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
SO, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
EEYOW!
...I'LL BE ON MY WAY!
SKREEEEVROOOM!
AFTER HIM!
RACHEL'S SHOUTED COMMAND, AUGMENTED PERHAPS SUBCONSCIOUSLY, BY HER MIGHTY PSIONIC POWERS, SENDS THE X-MEN AND NEW MUTANTS WHO ARE PRESENT RACING HEADLONG AFTER THE CAR--

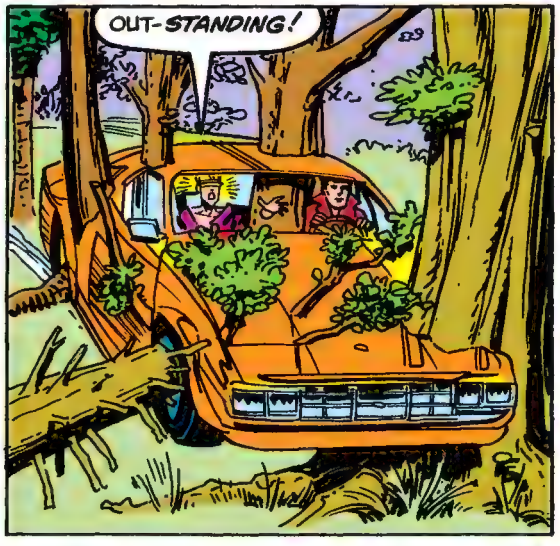

--LEAVING A FRIGHTENED AND BEWILDERED CHILD IN THEIR WAKE...
...ALONE.
DON'T CHASE HIM AWAY! NO-O-O!
BEYONDER! DON'T LEAVE ME HERE!
HE'S GONE! THEY CHASED HIM CLEAN OUT OF SIGHT!
WHY DID HE LEAVE WITHOUT ME? I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE!
SOME TIME LATER...
BUT WE HAD TO TRY TO RESTRAIN HIM, WOLVERINE! THE BEYONDER'S TOO DANGEROUS TO BE ALLOWED TO ROAM AROUND UNCHECKED! I CAN SENSE HIS POWER ON LEVELS YOU CAN'T! BELIEVE ME, HE'S...
I BELIEVE YOU, RACHEL--AND MAYBE WE SHOULD BE HUNTING THE BEYONDER FULL TIME! I THOUGHT THAT THE FIRST TIME WE ENCOUNTERED HIM! BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S YOUR POWER THAT CONCERNS ME!
I DON'T LIKE BEING PSIONICALLY COERCED INTO ANYTHING! MAYBE WE OUGHT TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK ABOUT THAT...
WHAT ABOUT THAT GIRL WE SAW ON OUR PORCH? DO YOU THINK THE BEYONDER BROUGHT HER HERE? WHY WOULD HE...?
WHO KNOWS? WE'LL LOOK AROUND FOR HER LATER--AFTER WE SETTLE OUR LITTLE INTERNAL PROBLEM!
MEANWHILE, DEEP IN THE WOODS ADJOINING THE MANSION GROUNDS...
BEYONDER, PLEASE BE LISTENING AND HEAR ME, WILLYA?! I CAN'T YELL ANYMORE!
PLEASE COME AND GET ME! TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE! THAT PLACE ISN'T WHERE I WANT TO BE! IT SCARES ME--!
BEYON-DERRR!
COME ON! I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! YOU'RE ALL I HAVE LEFT!
I KNOW I'VE BEEN A PAIN... BUT GIVE ME A BREAK, WILLYA? PLEASE?
PLEASE?!
LOOK, I'M MAKING A BOMB--AS BIG AS I CAN! IT'S SET FOR THIRTY SECONDS!
IF YOU DON'T COME BACK BY THEN--
--WELL THEN, I QUIT! THE QUICK WAY!
FIVE... FOUR... THREE... TWO... ONE...

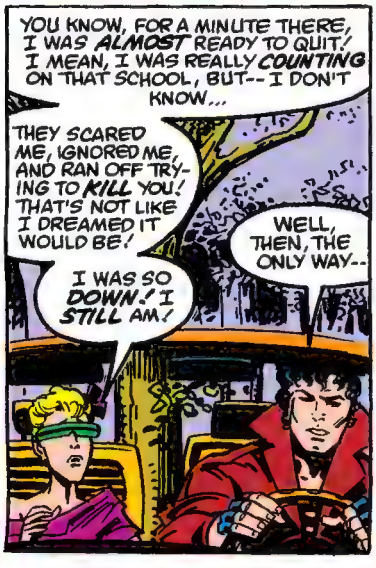
...ZERO!
BEYONDER?
RATS! HE DIDN'T COME!
MAYBE HE KNEW I REALLY SET IT FOR A MINUTE!
OR MAYBE... HE JUST DOESN'T CARE!
TEN POINTS!
NOW WHAT? WHERE AM I RUNNING TO NOW?
NOWHERE!
...FOUR... THIS TIME FOR REAL... TWO... ONE...
BUWHOOOM!

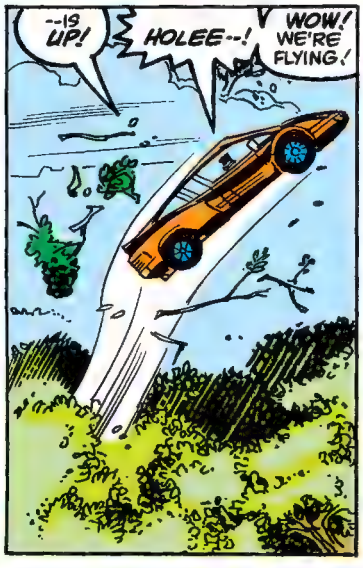

KOFF! KOFF!

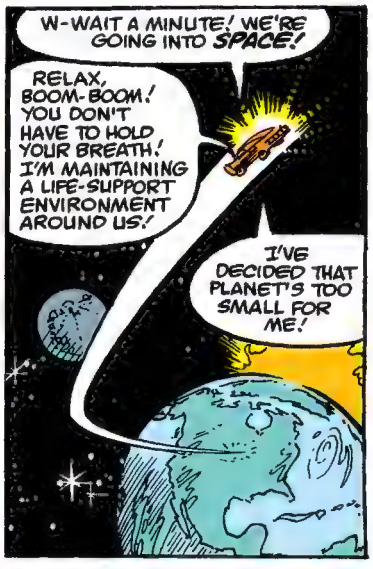

WHY'D YOU COME?
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT READY TO QUIT YET! I CAN TELL!
THAT WAS A STUPID STUNT!
I KNOW, I KNOW! GET OFF MY CASE, WILLYA! I'M ONLY THIRTEEN! STUPID STUNTS COME WITH THE PACKAGE!

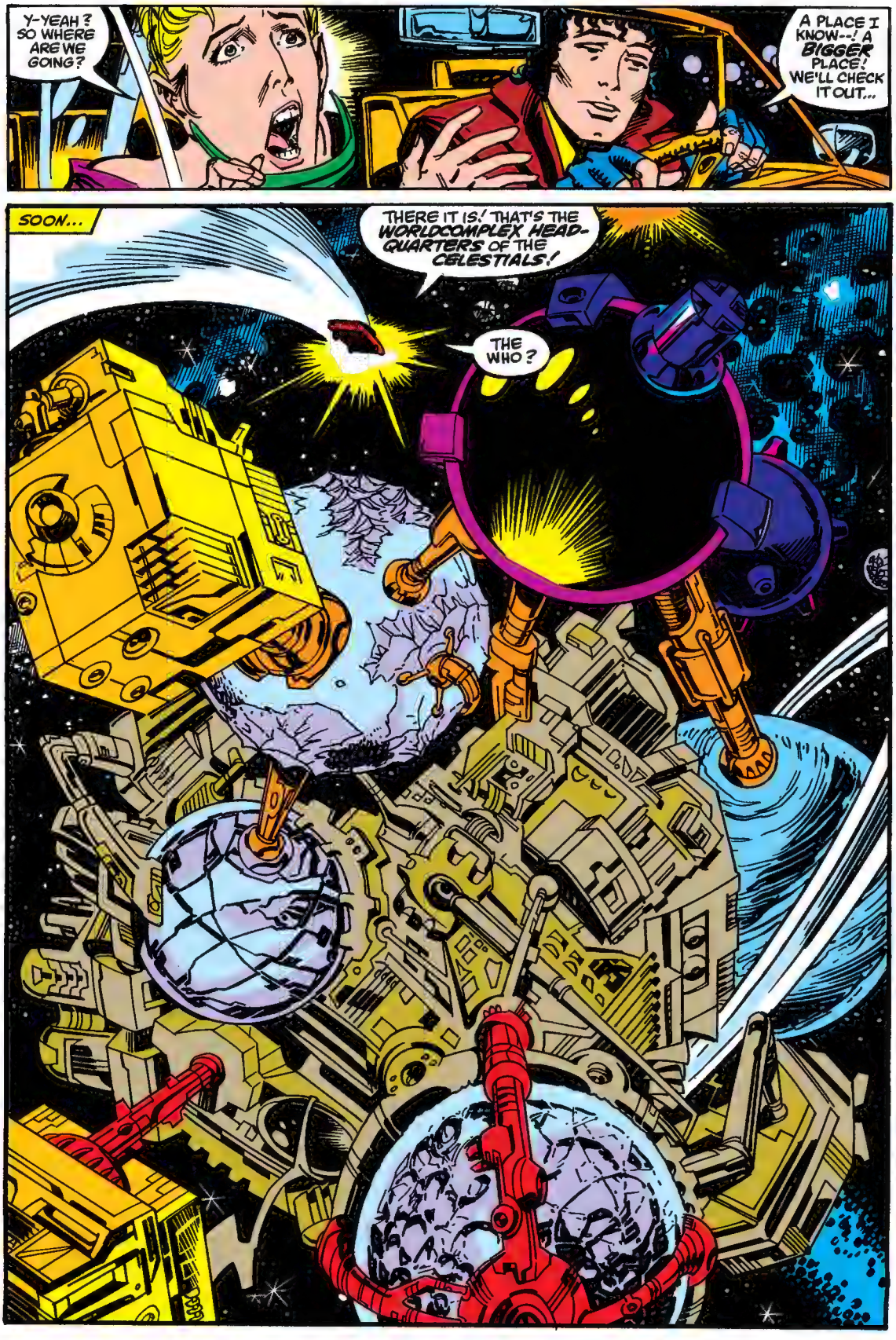

NOT THAT STUPID!
WANT TO GO FOR A RIDE?
HERE? HOW?
GET IN!

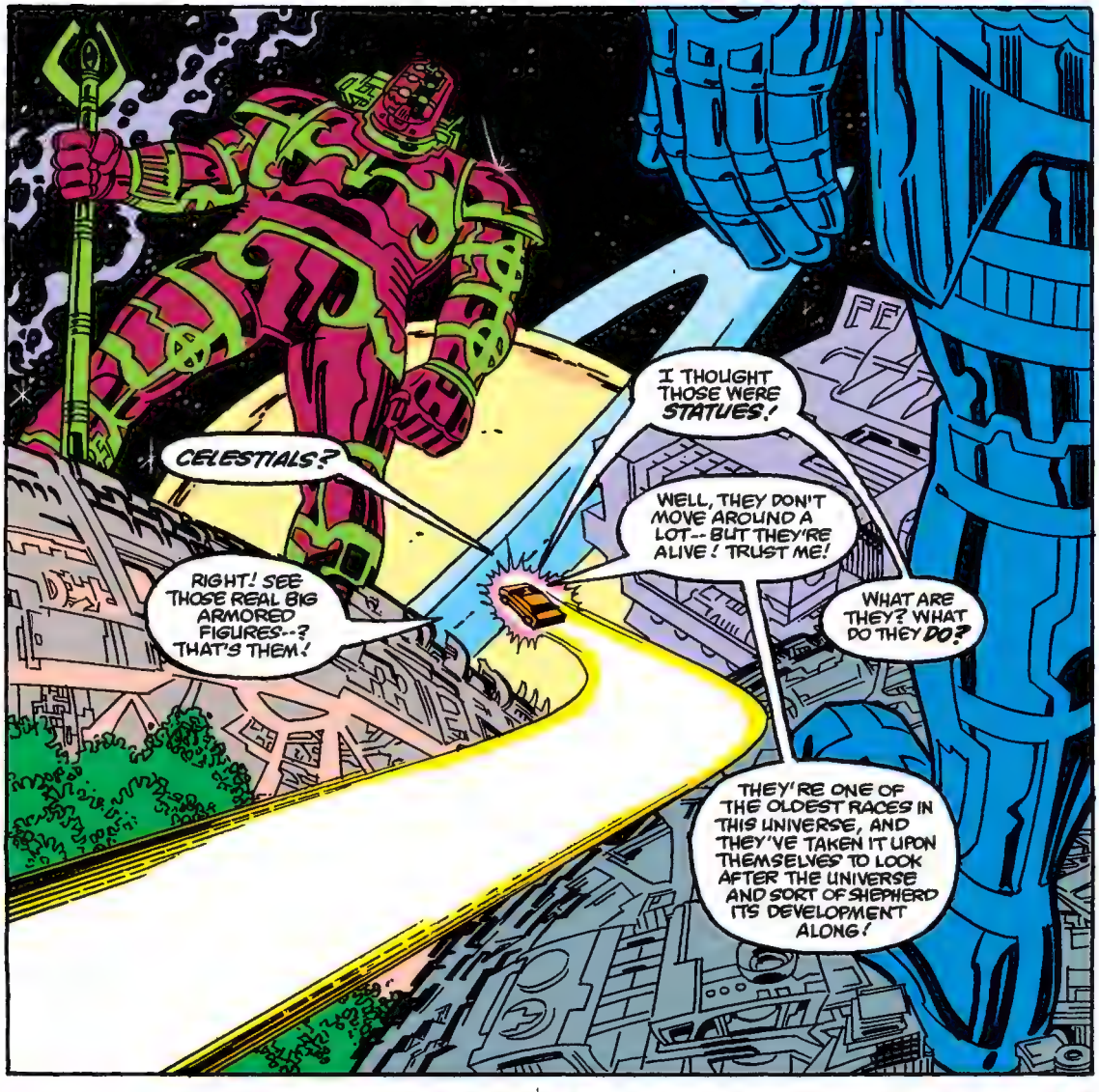

OUT-STANDING!

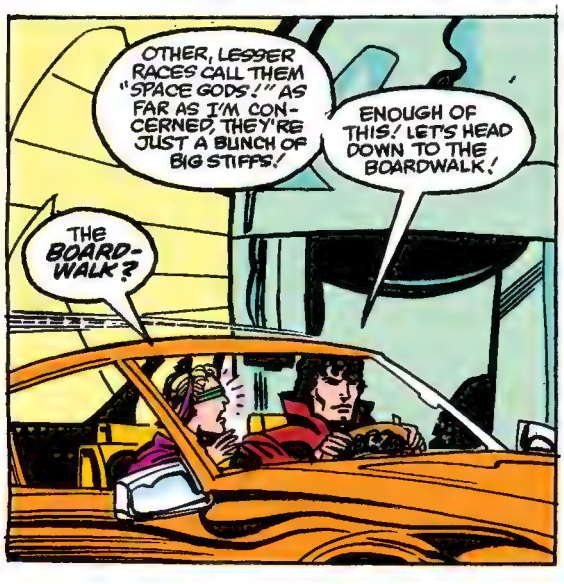

YOU KNOW, FOR A MINUTE THERE, I WAS ALMOST READY TO QUIT! I MEAN, I WAS REALLY COUNTING ON THAT SCHOOL, BUT-- I DON'T KNOW...
THEY SCARED ME, IGNORED ME, AND RAN OFF TRYING TO KILL YOU! THAT'S NOT LIKE I DREAMED IT WOULD BE!
WELL, THEN, THE ONLY WAY--
I WAS SO DOWN! I STILL AM!

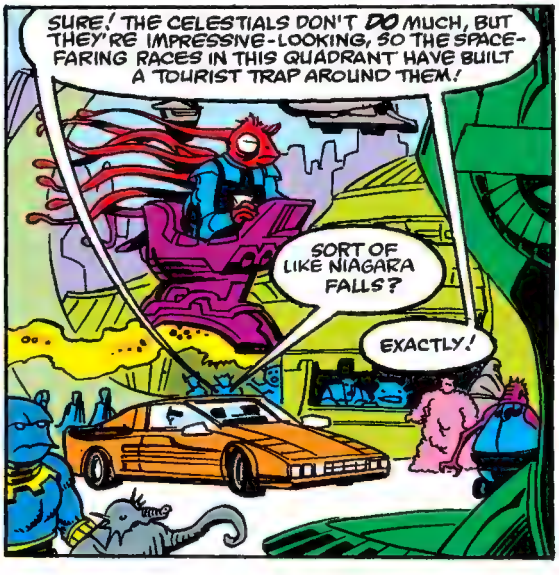

--IS UP!
HOLEE--!
WOW! WE'RE FLYING!

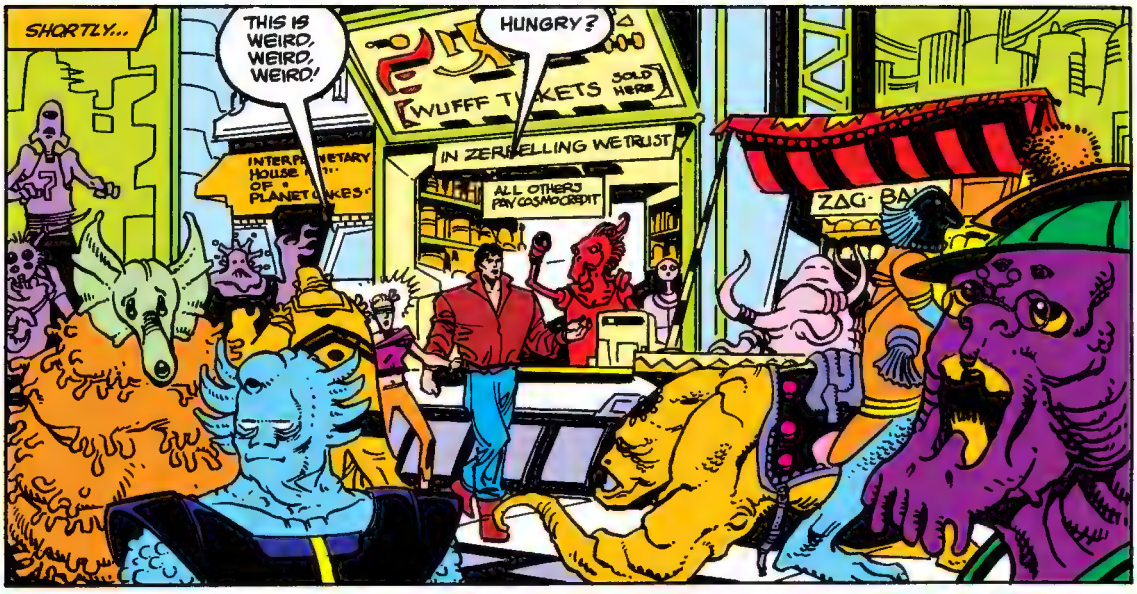

W-WAIT A MINUTE! WE'RE GOING INTO SPACE!
RELAX, BOOM-BOOM! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD YOUR BREATH! I'M MAINTAINING A LIFE-SUPPORT ENVIRONMENT AROUND US!
I'VE DECIDED THAT PLANET'S TOO SMALL FOR ME!

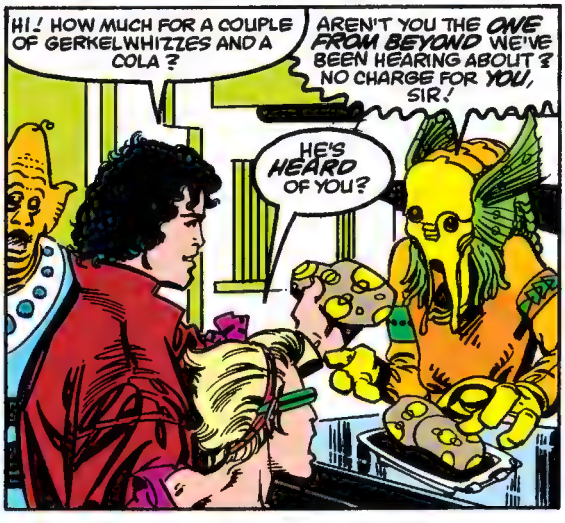

Y-YEAH? SO WHERE ARE WE GOING?
A PLACE I KNOW--! A BIGGER PLACE! WE'LL CHECK IT OUT...
SOON...
THERE IT IS! THAT'S THE WORLDCOMPLEX HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE CELESTIALS!
THE WHO?


CELESTIALS?
RIGHT! SEE THOSE REAL BIG ARMORED FIGURES--? THAT'S THEM!
I THOUGHT THOSE WERE STATUES!
WELL, THEY DON'T MOVE AROUND A LOT-- BUT THEY'RE ALIVE! TRUST ME!
WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT DO THEY DO?
THEY'RE ONE OF THE OLDEST RACES IN THIS UNIVERSE, AND THEY'VE TAKEN IT UPON THEMSELVES TO LOOK AFTER THE UNIVERSE AND SORT OF SHEPHERD ITS DEVELOPMENT ALONG!


OTHER, LESSER RACES CALL THEM "SPACE GODS!" AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THEY'RE JUST A BUNCH OF BIG STIFFS!
ENOUGH OF THIS! LET'S HEAD DOWN TO THE BOARDWALK!
THE BOARDWALK?


SURE! THE CELESTIALS DON'T DO MUCH, BUT THEY'RE IMPRESSIVE-LOOKING, SO THE SPACE-FARING RACES IN THIS QUADRANT HAVE BUILT A TOURIST TRAP AROUND THEM!
SORT OF LIKE NIAGARA FALLS?
EXACTLY!

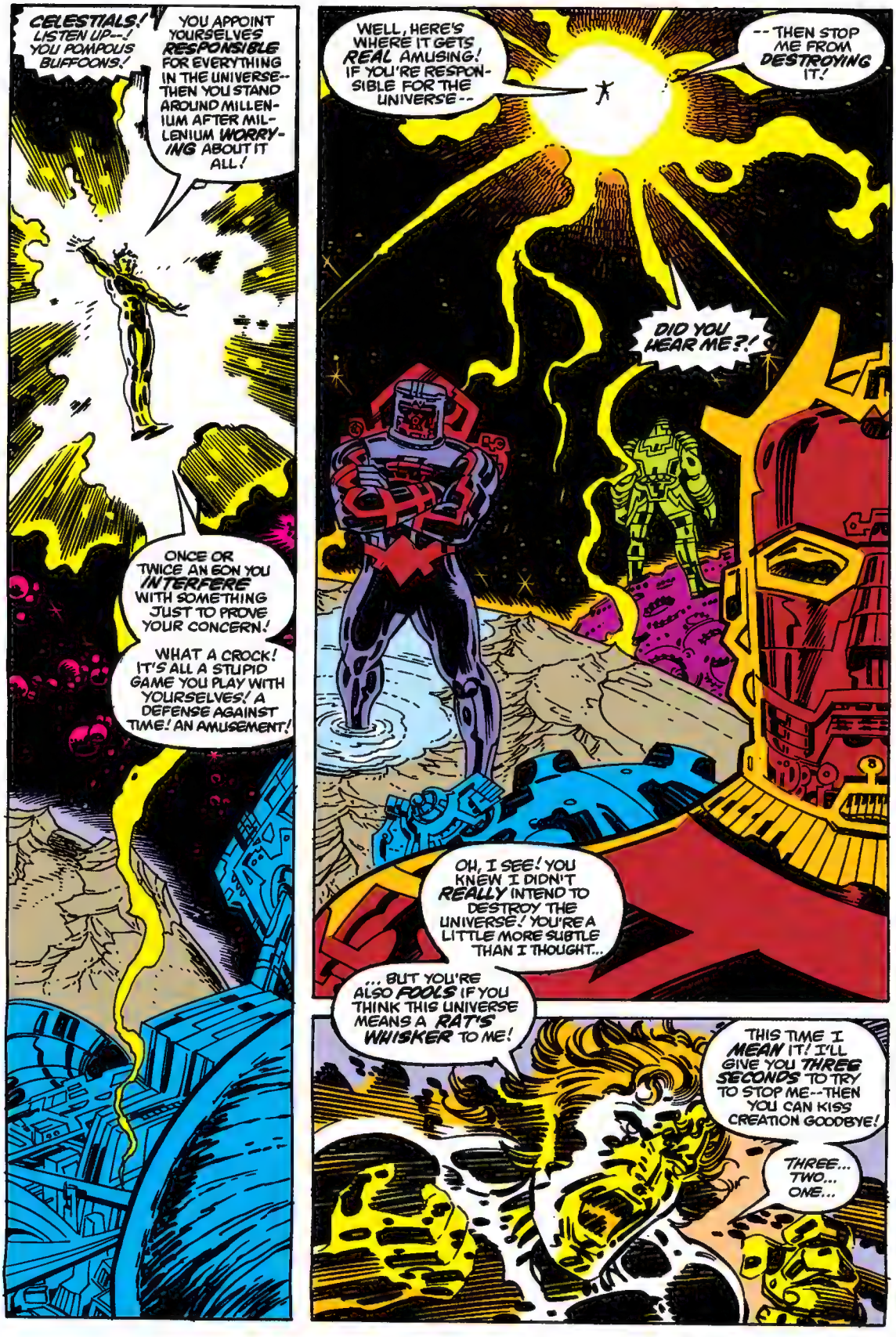

SHORTLY...
THIS IS WEIRD, WEIRD, WEIRD!
HUNGRY?
WUFFF T KETS SOLD HERE
IN ZERGELLING WE TRUST
ALL OTHERS PAY COSMOCREDIT
ZAG-BA

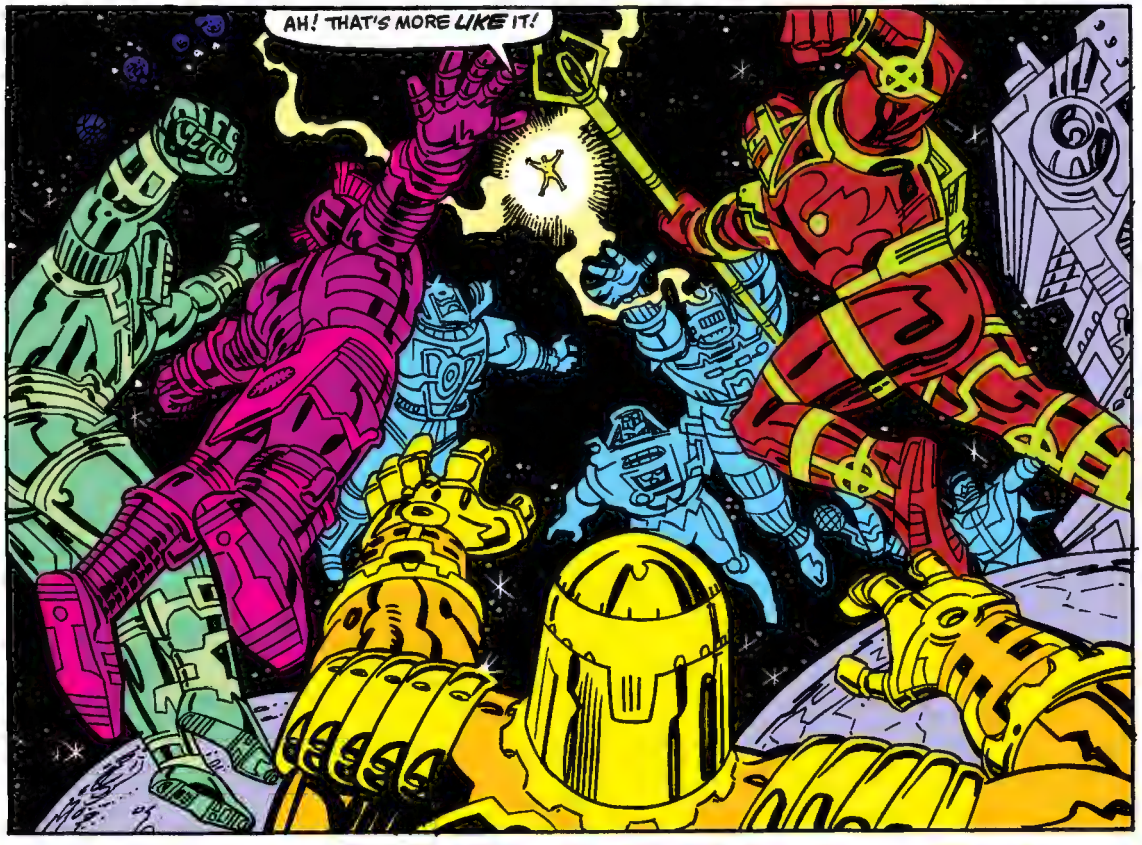

HI! HOW MUCH FOR A COUPLE OF GERKELWHIZZES AND A COLA?
AREN'T YOU THE ONE FROM BEYOND WE'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT? NO CHARGE FOR YOU, SIR!
HE'S HEARD OF YOU?

SURE! ALL OF THE MORE SOPHISTICATED RACES IN THE UNIVERSE ARE FULLY AWARE OF MY PRESENCE HERE! I'M THE MOST POWERFUL BEING IN EXISTENCE! I GUESS THAT MAKES PEOPLE NERVOUS...
HUH! THOSE BIG GUYS DIDN'T EVEN LOOK UP WHEN WE ARRIVED!
COMET COLA

NONSENSE! THEY'VE THOUGHT OF NOTHING ELSE SINCE I ENTERED THIS UNIVERSE! AND SINCE I CAME HERE THEY'VE BEEN ABSOLUTELY FRANTIC!
THEY LOOK BORED TO ME!

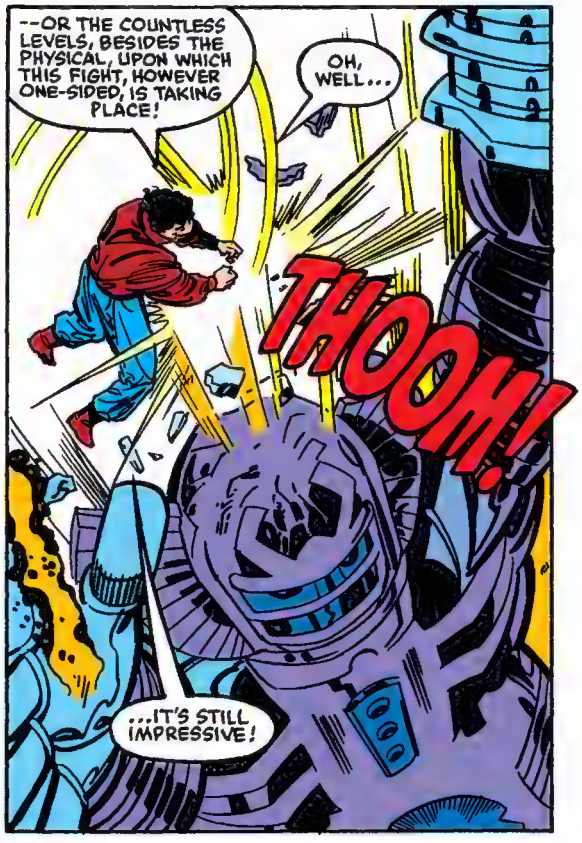
YOU JUST CAN'T PERCEIVE THEIR ACTIVITY WITH YOUR HUMAN SENSES! YOU WANT TO SEE SOME MORE DRAMATIC ACTION? WATCH!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

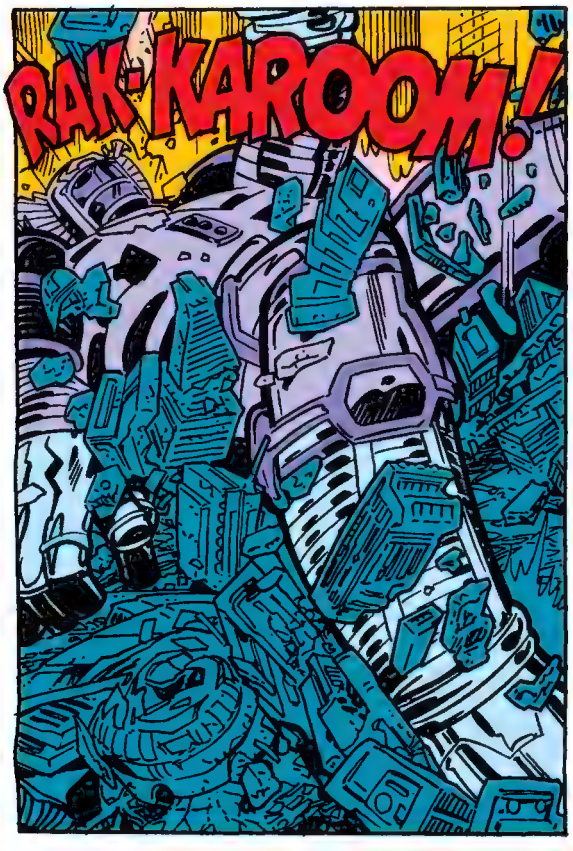

CELESTIALS! LISTEN UP--! YOU POMPOUS BUFFOONS!
YOU APPOINT YOURSELVES RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE--THEN YOU STAND AROUND MILLENIUM AFTER MILLENIUM WORRYING ABOUT IT ALL!
ONCE OR TWICE AN EON YOU INTERFERE WITH SOMETHING JUST TO PROVE YOUR CONCERN!
WHAT A CROCK! IT'S ALL A STUPID GAME YOU PLAY WITH YOURSELVES! A DEFENSE AGAINST TIME! AN AMUSEMENT!
WELL, HERE'S WHERE IT GETS REAL AMUSING! IF YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNIVERSE--
--THEN STOP ME FROM DESTROYING IT!
DID YOU HEAR ME?!
OH, I SEE! YOU KNEW I DIDN'T REALLY INTEND TO DESTROY THE UNIVERSE! YOU'RE A LITTLE MORE SUBTLE THAN I THOUGHT...
... BUT YOU'RE ALSO FOOLS IF YOU THINK THIS UNIVERSE MEANS A RAT'S WHISKER TO ME!
THIS TIME I MEAN IT! I'LL GIVE YOU THREE SECONDS TO TRY TO STOP ME--THEN YOU CAN KISS CREATION GOODBYE!
THREE... TWO... ONE...


AH! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

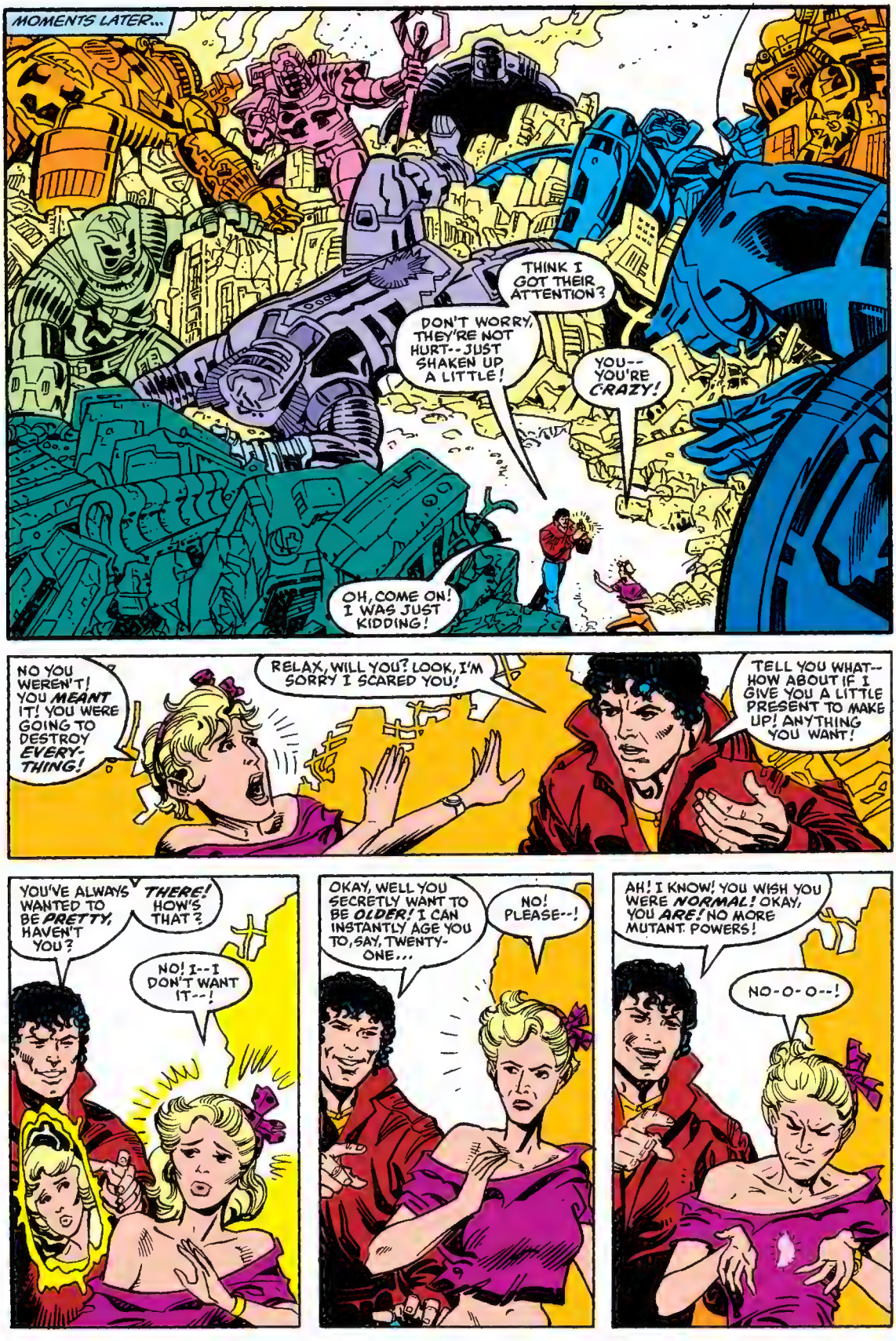
KRAKABOOOOM!
I BET THIS LOOKS GREAT FROM DOWN ON THE BOARDWALK! IN FACT, I KNOW IT DOES!
IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE THAT MAKE YOU APPRECIATE OMNISCIENCE!

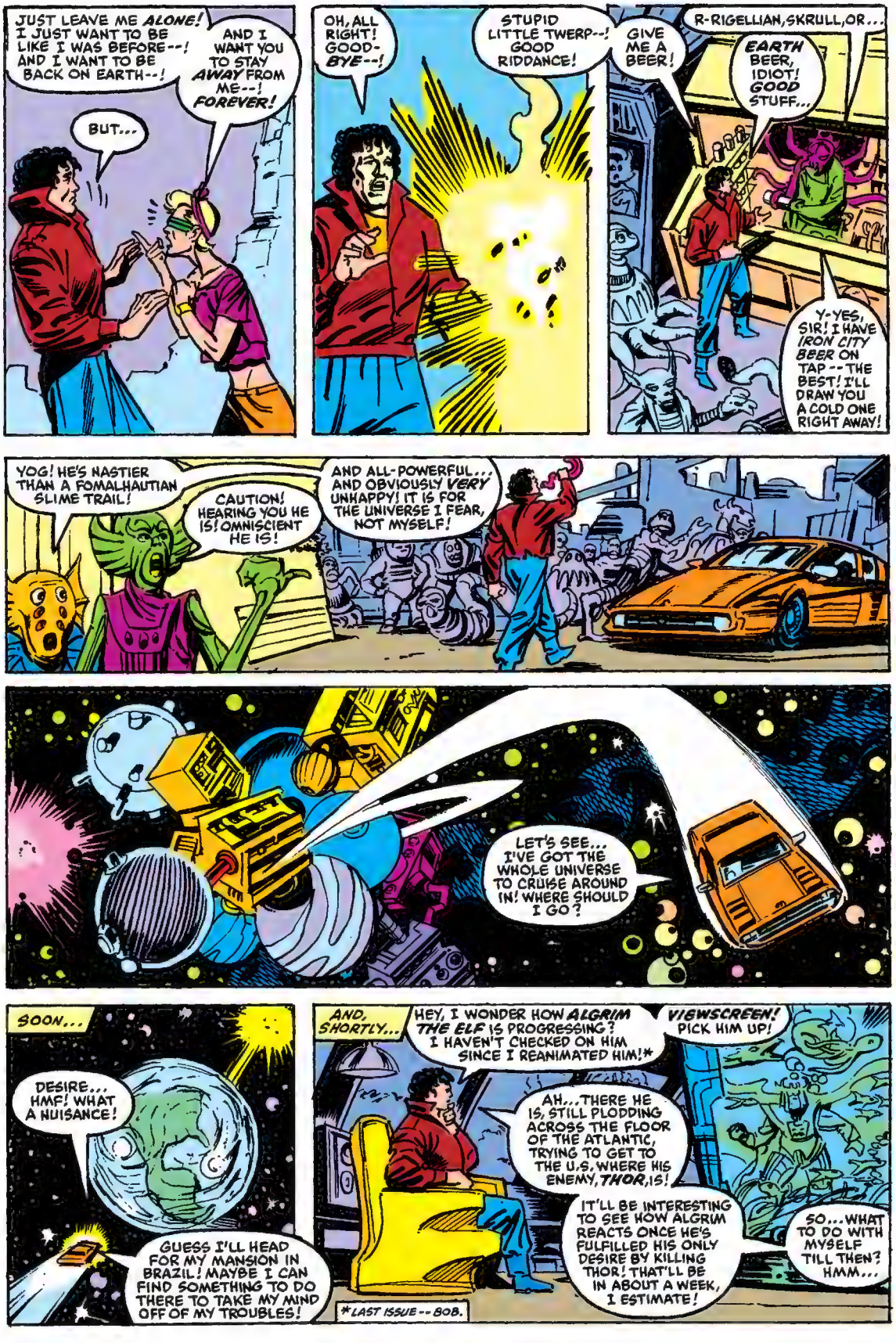
THE TROUBLE IS, LESSER BEINGS CAN'T REALLY PERCEIVE THE BULK OF THE ACTION --THE BILLIONS OF FEINTS, THRUSTS, AND PARRIES PER SECOND--


--OR THE COUNTLESS LEVELS, BESIDES THE PHYSICAL, UPON WHICH THIS FIGHT, HOWEVER ONE-SIDED, IS TAKING PLACE!
OH, WELL...
THOOM!
...IT'S STILL IMPRESSIVE!


RAK-KAROOM!

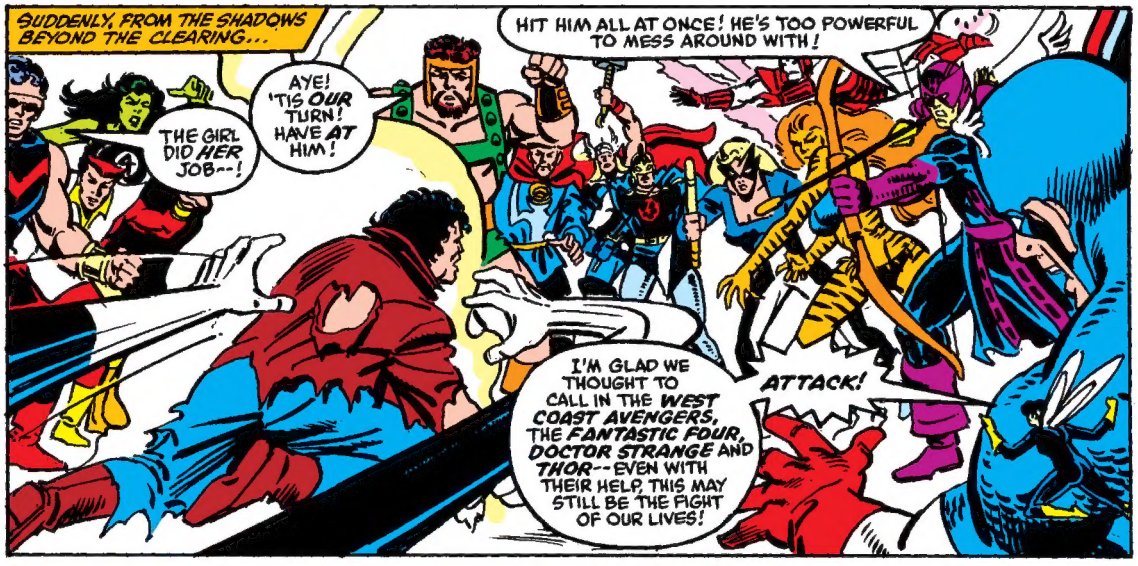
FLEE!
BEYONDER, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE DOING THIS! STOP IT! STOP!


MOMENTS LATER...
THINK I GOT THEIR ATTENTION?
DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE NOT HURT--JUST SHAKEN UP A LITTLE!
YOU--YOU'RE CRAZY!
OH, COME ON! I WAS JUST KIDDING!
NO YOU WEREN'T! YOU MEANT IT! YOU WERE GOING TO DESTROY EVERYTHING!
RELAX, WILL YOU? LOOK, I'M SORRY I SCARED YOU!
TELL YOU WHAT--HOW ABOUT IF I GIVE YOU A LITTLE PRESENT TO MAKE UP! ANYTHING YOU WANT!
YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE PRETTY, HAVEN'T YOU?
THERE! HOW'S THAT?
NO! I--I DON'T WANT IT--!
OKAY, WELL YOU SECRETLY WANT TO BE OLDER! I CAN INSTANTLY AGE YOU TO, SAY, TWENTY-ONE...
NO! PLEASE--!
AH! I KNOW! YOU WISH YOU WERE NORMAL! OKAY, YOU ARE! NO MORE MUTANT POWERS!
NO-O-O--!

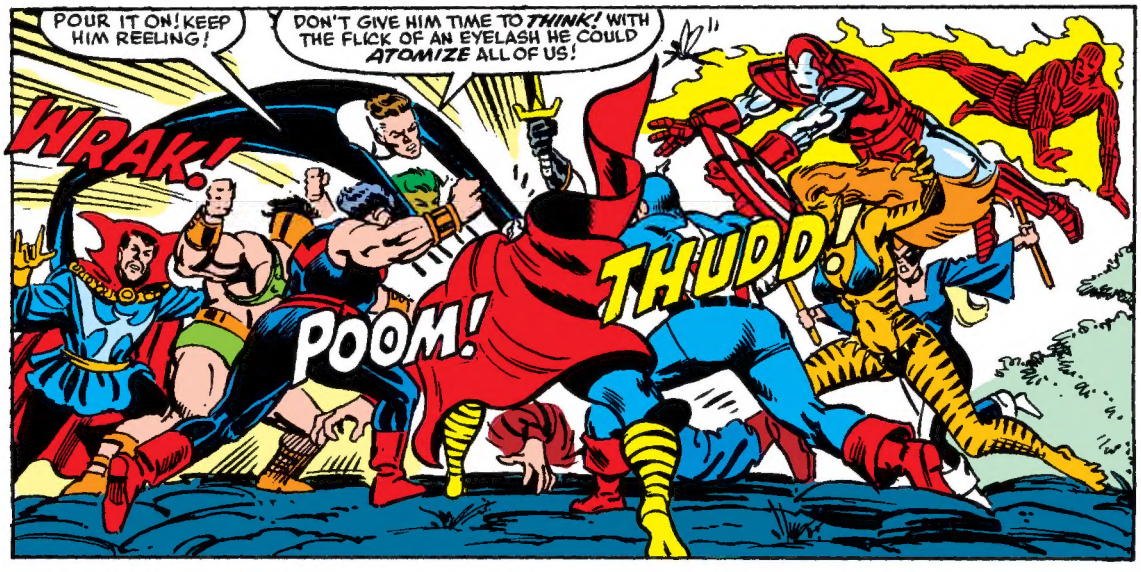

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE! I JUST WANT TO BE LIKE I WAS BEFORE--! AND I WANT TO BE BACK ON EARTH--!
AND I WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM ME--! FOREVER!
BUT...
OH, ALL RIGHT! GOOD-BYE--!
STUPID LITTLE TWERP--! GOOD RIDDANCE!
GIVE ME A BEER!
R-RIGELLIAN, SKRULL, OR...
EARTH BEER, IDIOT! GOOD STUFF...
Y-YES, SIR! I HAVE IRON CITY BEER ON TAP -- THE BEST! I'LL DRAW YOU A COLD ONE RIGHT AWAY!
YOG! HE'S NASTIER THAN A FOMALHAUTIAN SLIME TRAIL!
CAUTION! HEARING YOU HE IS! OMNISCIENT HE IS!
AND ALL-POWERFUL... AND OBVIOUSLY VERY UNHAPPY! IT IS FOR THE UNIVERSE I FEAR, NOT MYSELF!
LET'S SEE... I'VE GOT THE WHOLE UNIVERSE TO CRUISE AROUND IN! WHERE SHOULD I GO?
SOON...
DESIRE... HMF! WHAT A NUISANCE!
GUESS I'LL HEAD FOR MY MANSION IN BRAZIL! MAYBE I CAN FIND SOMETHING TO DO THERE TO TAKE MY MIND OFF OF MY TROUBLES!
AND, SHORTLY...
HEY, I WONDER HOW ALGRIM THE ELF IS PROGRESSING? I HAVEN'T CHECKED ON HIM SINCE I REANIMATED HIM!*
VIEWSCREEN! PICK HIM UP!
AH... THERE HE IS, STILL PLODDING ACROSS THE FLOOR OF THE ATLANTIC, TRYING TO GET TO THE U.S. WHERE HIS ENEMY, THOR, IS!
IT'LL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW ALGRIM REACTS ONCE HE'S FULFILLED HIS ONLY DESIRE BY KILLING THOR! THAT'LL BE IN ABOUT A WEEK, I ESTIMATE!
SO... WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF TILL THEN? HMM...
*LAST ISSUE -- BOB.

GUESS I'LL LISTEN TO SOME MUSIC WHILE I'M THINKING...
CLICK!
...I NEVER WANT TO LEAVE YOU
OH... NO...
ALISON..!
WHY... WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE HER RECORD ON THE STEREO?
DAZZLER
MEANWHILE, IN A SMALL TOWN IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY...
BLAAM!
I HOPE MA BELL UNDER-STANDS...
HELLO! THIS IS THE AVENGERS EMERGENCY HOTLINE! OPERATOR JACKSON SPEAKING...
UH, HI! I-- I JUST WANTED TO TELL THE AVENGERS THAT THE WORLD-- MAYBE EVEN THE WHOLE UNIVERSE IS IN BIG TROUBLE! THERE'S THIS GUY, THE BEYONDER...
THE BEYONDER?! HOLD ON!
AND...
THIS IS THE WASP! OUR HOTLINE OPERATOR TELLS ME YOU KNOW SOME-THING ABOUT THE BEYONDER!
I KNOW HE WRECKED A WHOLE TRAIN-- A-AND HE TOOK ME TO SOME PLACE OUT IN SPACE WHERE HE NEARLY KILLED A WHOLE BUNCH OF WEIRD E.T.'S-- REALLY!
AND HE THREATENED TO DESTROY THE WHOLE UNIVERSE! HONEST! YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE ME!
I DO, DEAR! WE'VE MET HIM BEFORE! DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?
NO... B-BUT I THINK I CAN GET HIM TO SHOW UP!

LATER, AT A CERTAIN FAMILIAR CAMPSITE...
BEYONDER! BEYONDER!
COME HERE, WILLYA? PLEASE! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
BOOM-BOOM! I WAS HOPING YOU'D CALL ME! I'D JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPING YOU WOULD! I MISSED YOU, KIDDO!
HOW ARE YOU?
I'M FINE... I, UH... MISSED YOU, TOO! NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN! YOU, UM, OKAY?
SURE--! THAT IS... WELL, ACTUALLY I'VE BEEN KIND OF DEPRESSED! I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT...
THERE REALLY IS NO TURNING BACK... NO WAY TO TAKE A RAINCHECK! THERE'S NO WAY TO UN-LIVE WHAT YOU'VE LIVED, OR UNFEEL WHAT YOU'VE FELT! LIKE YOU SAID, IT'S GO ON TRYING OR COL-LAPSE AND DIE... QUICK OR SLOW!
I WAS ALMOST READY TO... YOU KNOW, QUIT JUST BEFORE YOU CALLED! I'M GLAD YOU DID! YOU'RE... ALL I HAVE LEFT!
BOOM-BOOM! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
KA-BOOM!

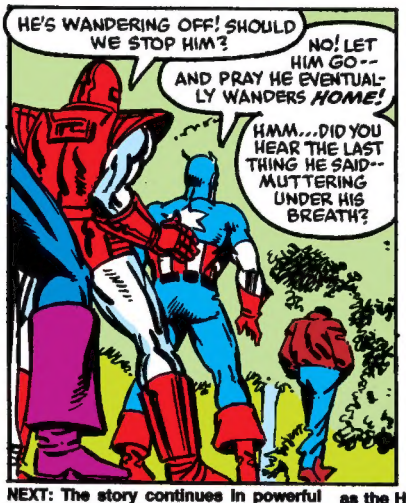

SUDDENLY, FROM THE SHADOWS BEYOND THE CLEARING...
THE GIRL DID HER JOB--!
AYE! 'TIS OUR TURN! HAVE AT HIM!
HIT HIM ALL AT ONCE! HE'S TOO POWERFUL TO MESS AROUND WITH!
I'M GLAD WE THOUGHT TO CALL IN THE WEST COAST AVENGERS, THE FANTASTIC FOUR, DOCTOR STRANGE AND THOR--EVEN WITH THEIR HELP, THIS MAY STILL BE THE FIGHT OF OUR LIVES!
ATTACK!

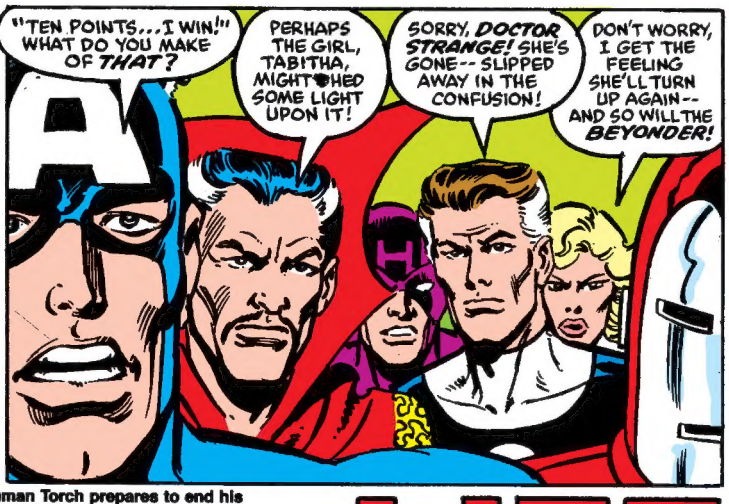
THOOM!
KRAK!
WHOK!
ZZAKT!


POUR IT ON! KEEP HIM REELING!
DON'T GIVE HIM TIME TO THINK! WITH THE FLICK OF AN EYELASH HE COULD ATOMIZE ALL OF US!
WRAK!
POOM!
THUDD!

CAPTAIN AMERICA KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING! LISTEN TO HIM!
EVERYONE JUST HOLD YOUR FIRE! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY FIGHT LEFT IN HIM--BUT STAND READY, JUST IN CASE!

SO NOW WHAT? DO WE ARREST HIM AND TOSS HIM IN THE SLAMMER?
ON WHAT EVIDENCE? BESIDES, IF HE WANTED OUT, WHAT PRISON COULD HOLD HIM?
LOOK, BEYONDER, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM?
CAN'T... CAN'T BAIL OUT! IT'S NO USE... I TRIED!


HE'S WANDERING OFF! SHOULD WE STOP HIM?
NO! LET HIM GO-- AND PRAY HE EVENTUALLY WANDERS HOME!
HMM... DID YOU HEAR THE LAST THING HE SAID-- MUTTERING UNDER HIS BREATH?


"TEN POINTS... I WIN!" WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT?
PERHAPS THE GIRL, TABITHA, MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT UPON IT!
SORRY, DOCTOR STRANGE! SHE'S GONE-- SLIPPED AWAY IN THE CONFUSION!
DON'T WORRY, I GET THE FEELING SHE'LL TURN UP AGAIN-- AND SO WILL THE BEYONDER!

NEXT: The story continues in powerful fashion in *The Thing* #30, wherein Ben Grimm battles the Beyonder one-on-one . . . in a death match!

And in *Doctor Strange* #74, Doctor Strange makes the choice which will ultimately condemn the entire multiverse to destruction!

And in *The Fantastic Four* #285, the Beyonder plays a critical role in the most moving, dramatic tale you'll read all year, as the Human Torch prepares to end his career forever!

One month from now, the threads of our cosmic saga are gathered again in *Secret Wars II* #6 which guest-stars *Cloak and Dagger, Power Pack, Thor, Beta Ray Bill,* and virtually *all* of Marvel's ultra-cosmic entities—*Eon, the In-Betweener, the Living Tribunal, Chaos, Order, Galactus, Death,* and many more! It is *the* cosmic event of all time! Don't miss . . .

. . . LIFE RULES!

MINUTEMEN
Blutman